

A Good Grab Hook.



S. W. SNIDER, Waterloo Co., Ont.:—"This is a very handy hook for hauling sawlogs. The ring A is to put the whiffletree on by means of a clevis. If you want to carry the whiffletree round you can just take hold at B and lift the whole thing up, chain and all if it is on the hook. When you want to unhook the chain, take hold at B and turn it back and make the horses go."

"AN EASY WAY TO UNLOAD GRAVEL."

"Take a hardwood plank and form it into the shape of A; then make a block of the same thickness as your gravel planks; and another plank of hardwood for B. Then take two strong bolts and bolt the three pieces together, as represented in the picture. A is to be shoved in on top of the gravel plank, under the gravel, so that B will be under the gravel plank; then just lift up the handle and you can very easily turn over all the planks. With this contrivance one man alone can unload a load of gravel easier than two men can by hand."



POULTRY.

Poultry on the Farm.

[Read before the Neepawa Farmers' Institute by A. G. Hopkins, V. S.]

In order to show that the subject is one well worthy of your attention, I will quote the following figures: From St. Mary's, Ont., from the last of August, 1895, to the middle of December same year, there had been shipped to Great Britain 38 carloads of eggs, each car containing 12,000 dozens, valued in all at \$55,000. Again, it is stated that \$135,000,000 by eggs alone is yearly added to the wealth of the U. S., equalling the value of the combined output of iron and wool. I make no apology for championing the cause of one of the most useful and paying adjuncts to a farm, being convinced that with the average farmer this class is neglected; consequently, what might be a source of income is, if not a loss, purely an incumbrance to the farmer. In order to be more easily understood, we will divide the subject into three sections: (1st) "The average poultry stock and how to improve them"; (2nd) "Housing this stock"; and (3rd) "The feeding of poultry with a view to profit."

FIRST.—The average poultry stock of the farm is an aggregation of mongrels, whose feathers are as many hued as the rainbow, and who are also the harborers of those aversions of the up-to-date poultry-man, viz., lice. Given an ordinary flock, we start to improve them, and to do so it is necessary to bring in fresh blood by the use of a pure-bred male. On the selection of the parent of the future chicks depends much of the desired success. As the farm fowl is a general purpose fowl, a selection of a male from the following breeds will likely give the best satisfaction: Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, Game (Indian). These are all hardy breeds and good layers. For this country a breed without a superabundance of comb is to be desired. The above mentioned breeds' average standard weight is for the male bird 9 lbs. and for the female 6-6½ lbs. As can be seen by these weights, there will be a good allowance of meat on the birds, and also that they are of fair size. From the various reports of experimenters these breeds are well thought of, especially for the purpose of crossing. A pure-bred cockerel will cost from \$1 up, and can be secured in the fall, as at that time breeders are generally culling out before making up their breeding pens; sometimes it is possible to obtain an older male who has been used in the breeding pens. If a cockerel is secured, select an early hatched chicken free from roup or any signs of a cold; in fact, as vigorous a bird as you can get, his future duties calling for vigor and a good constitution above any other thing. The idea prevails among thoughtful breeders that the male should be kept separate from the hens, except during the breeding season, for the following reasons: He will monopolize the most of the food; he teaches the hens to break eggs and eat them; besides, the diet necessary to stimulate the laying propensity of the hens would cause the male to lay on too much fat, thus impairing his usefulness; Another good reason for the above is that the unfertilized egg is a better keeper than the fertilized one. Don't use the same male too many seasons or to too many hens. If used to too great a number of hens, a great number of eggs will be infertile or the chicks may be weak. With regard to the hens, don't keep them till old age carries them off; the hen is in her prime as a layer from pullet age till three years old, after that time they will not pay the profit they may have formerly; in fact, it will be better to kill them for eating.

Selection.—Observation is necessary among the

hens just as much as the Babcock tester is a necessity in the selection of dairy cows. In raising chicks two methods are used, the natural and the artificial (incubator method). Unless gone into extensively, the natural way answers for the average farmer. Too many eggs should not be placed under a hen, eleven being sufficient, the eggs being of average size. Several hens should be set at the same time, so that the eggs being tested at the same time, the infertile and rotten ones can be removed and the good ones given to some of the sitters, the others being released, so as to be started laying again. When hatched, the chickens and mother should be placed in a good dry coop and put in a sunny position; the young chicks do not need feed till 24 hours old, after that time hard boiled eggs with dry backed bread crumbs, occasionally oatmeal mixed with milk, and as they grow older give them wheat. Sloppy feed is not desirable for chicks, it induces diarrhoea.

Housing.—We don't need to be verbose in discussing this section, as the necessary condition are light, warmth, cleanliness, and plenty of room. Too often the farm hen roosts on the crows or over the horses, a condition which does not conduce either to the health or cleanliness of the animals mentioned. Light is a great necessity in the living apartments of the fowls; a southern exposure gives the best results; a fair-sized window so placed that the sunlight is thrown on the floor answers well.

Warmth.—To treat on this part of the question would take longer time than we can afford; each must decide for himself, not forgetting that warm quarters do not mean stuffy, ill-ventilated ones.

Cleanliness.—Under this indispensable condition comes the placing of the roosts. The roosts should not be over four feet high; the reason for this is to save the feet of the heavy birds, which I have no doubt are often injured by coming down heavily from too high a perch. Under the roosts should be placed the droppings board; by this method the floor is kept clean, room is economized, as the nest boxes can be put under the board, and the valuable manure is obtained easily and in good condition. To continue with the subject of cleanliness comes the annual cleaning, which should be thorough. Probably the best method is to make a hot lime wash, in which is some strong carbolic acid; apply with a brush and introduce the wash into all crevices, thus minimizing the chances of the flock being infested with vermin. The roosts should be coal oiled several times during the year.

Room.—If you desire plenty of eggs, especially during winter, you need room for the hens, so that they can get plenty of exercise. A good way to keep them working is to scatter their grain feed on the floor, which should be covered a few inches deep with straw or, better, wheat chaff.

Feeding.—To the farmer the feeding of his feathered flock is not usually a hard problem, as on the farm there is much feed useful for poultry that cannot profitably be fed to other stock. In feeding poultry, as other stock, regularity is of great importance; a change of diet occasionally is also good; not too much or too little feed. Never feed more than the hens will clean up. If grain is the feed, throw in among the litter, so that they have to scratch vigorously—industry bringing its own reward in the hen family as well as in the human one. The following makes a good daily ration: Morning, warm mash of wheat, oats, barley (all ground), with bran; noon, a small quantity of grain, thrown in the straw; afternoon, a liberal allowance of wheat. Besides the above, cut green bone or meat should be fed often, say four days a week. Green bone is comparatively a new feed for poultry, but it has a wonderful effect on the egg yield. Bones are obtained fresh from the butcher, and are run through a bone cutter (not a very costly machine); the quantity of cut bone fed at a meal varies from one half to one ounce daily per head. It is eaten with avidity by the hens, and supplies, in a concentrated form, the elements that go to make up the egg, viz., albumen and phosphate of lime, etc. Farmers could club together and get a good bone cutter, and thus have the greatest known help to winter egg production. Green feed, such as cabbage, etc., makes a good variety to the feed. An easy way recommended is to suspend a cabbage from the ceiling of the house just high enough from the floor that the hens have to jump for it. Besides solids, it is necessary that fowls should have liquids; a plentiful supply of pure cold water is indispensable, and will help insure the flock against disease. Milk is also a good food for hens. A box of sharp sand should be on hand to supply grit. A dusting box will also help. The following conditions tend to insure success, viz.: 1. Use of good blood. 2. Good care and good feed.

Sale of Mr. Hobson's Farm.

It will be of interest to many of our readers to learn, in connection with the dispersion sale of Mr. John I. Hobson's stock, that his beautiful farm at Mosboro, Ont., has been sold to Mr. David Birrell, of Greenwood, Ont., the well-known breeder of Shorthorns and other fine pure-bred stock (we understand, for his son, Mr. John E. Birrell). Mr. and Mrs. Hobson will spend next summer traveling in Britain and on the Continent, and then make their home at Guelph. We are glad to know that he is not giving up his association with farming, as he retains yet 150 acres, besides considerable interest in another part of the county.

The Ontario Poultry Association.

The exhibition of the O. P. A. was held in the drill shed, Guelph, on 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th of January, and was a decided success. Poultry-keeping during recent years has received much more careful attention than formerly. A case is cited of a Western Ontario village where one buyer paid \$24,300 in cash for eggs during 1896, all obtained in the district, while there was shipped from the same station \$2,500 worth of turkeys. The total shipment of poultry and eggs amounted to \$30,000 for the year, or about \$100 a day for every week day in the year. That single instance illustrates what a wealth-producing industry poultry is, and how deserving it is of the very best consideration and care on the part of the farmer. During the convention attention was drawn to the need for directing the expenditure of Association funds in such a way as to promote the breeds of utility rather than the fancy fowls, and to promote the industry on the farm.

THE EXHIBIT.

The entries this year were some 400 more than last. Last year the show was held at Port Hope, where they had over 1,200 entries; this year the number was over 1,600, and the quality of the different specimens was superior to anything ever seen in Canada, so says the veteran poultry breeder, McNeil, of London. On entering the drill shed we were confronted by a grand display of Buff Cochins, exhibited by McCormick, of London—some enormous birds amongst them; he carrying off all the prizes but one; W. Bell, of Toronto, getting that. In Light Brahmas the show was not large, but some magnificent specimens were on exhibition; Messrs. Cole (Hamilton), Cameron (Galt), and Oldrieve (Kingston) carrying off all the prizes. In Dark Brahmas, Saunders (London) and Thorp and Scott carried off the ribbons. In Plymouth Rocks (Barred), E. Dickinson (North Glanford) took first with a beautiful bird; the second prize also fell to this gentleman. Messrs. Bennett carried off first, second and third with three fine hens. The show in this class was very large, and for a general purpose fowl it cannot be beaten. In White Rocks, Messrs. Rice (Whitby), Gallinger Bros., and Bogue (Strathroy) were the prize winners. In Buff Rocks, R. H. Essex (Toronto) was first, second and third with fine specimens. In Games, Messrs. McLeod (London), Oldrieve and Wilkinson, Barber, Crowe and Main were the prize takers. In Langshans, Scott (St. Thomas), Oldrieve and Wilkinson, A. T. Little, and Knight and Smith (Guelph) won all the honors. The Wyandotte is deservedly gaining ground, as it is among the best general purpose fowls we have. Messrs. Myers (Kossuth), Bogue (Grimsby) Wedgery, Magill, and Field are the winners. In Dorkings, Corcoran (Stratford), Laurie, Bogue, and McKee are the winners. This old and valuable breed still holds its own. The Black Spanish was a fine class, and Frazer (New Hamburg), McCormick, and Weir (West Flamboro) were the winners in cocks, Hare and Frazer in hens. In Houdans, Messrs. Bogue and True were the principal winners. In Polands, McNeil (London) and Bogue. In Leghorns, Rice, Frew, Graham, Brown, Horsford, Bell, and Oke are the principal prize takers. Geese, turkeys, and ducks were well represented, and some very fine specimens were shown in turkeys. Messrs. Bell (Angus), Ford (Drumquinn), Beattie (Wilton Grove), and Anderson (Guelph), and Main (Milton) were the prize takers. Mr. Beattie took all the prizes for white turkeys. The gobbler exhibited by Ford weighed 42 pounds, and was the heaviest bird in the show. The geese were very heavy, fine birds. Main (Milton) first for the heaviest goose. Messrs. Bogue, Main, Luxton, Obrien and Colwell, McCormick and Weir were the prize takers. The display of ducks, especially in Pekins, was immense. Bogue, Obrien and Colwell, Webber, Coulson, were the lucky ones in this class. In Aylsbury, Bogue, Webber, Reid and Obrien and Colwell carried off the honors; and in Rouen, the veteran breeder, Mr. Main (of Milton) John Coulson, and Obrien and Colwell took all the prizes. There were any number of Bantams, and first-class they were; and some beautiful Silver, Golden, and Lady Amherst pheasants, also two pairs of very fine English pheasants, exhibited by Dr. Niven and R. Oke, London. Some very fine specimens of Belgian hares and lop-eared rabbits were also on exhibition; some of their ears measuring nine inches in length.

There was a large turnout of the members in the City Hall on Wednesday, when essays were read and speeches delivered by the following gentlemen:

Rev. Thos. Geoghegan, Hamilton. His subject was

"POULTRY CULTURE AS AN INDUSTRY."

He read a very interesting paper; it dealt with poultry raising as far back as the time of the Egyptians. A large part of the expense entailed by the Franco-Prussian war was paid off by money made in poultry raising. Not only do the French supply their own market, but send to England annually \$5,000,000 worth of this class of food. While the poultry products representing cash value is more than either cotton, hay, or dairy produce, it is the only agricultural product which the Americans do not export, and in which the supply is unequal to the demand. In 1891 Canada exported \$1,160,359 worth, and instead of increasing it has been decreasing. Great Britain imported \$18,931,645 worth of eggs alone; of this only \$524,577 went from